Mr. Thanu Pillai then moved that the Bill as revised be finally read on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

GAME PRESERVATION BILL.

SECTION 3.

Mr. Bensley.—Since the last meeting of the Council, I have had the advantage of perusing certain important papers connected with game preservation as it obtains in British India and I have satisfied myself that the Bill as it now stands amended requires very little further alteration or discussion. But one or two points have suggested themselves as deserving re-consideration. I would put them before the Council in the shape of amendments.

I beg to propose that in line 1, para 2, section 3, the words "any person defending his life from the attacks of wild animals or" be inserted between "preclude" and "proprietors." It is necessary to explicitly provide for self-defence and this is effected by the proposed amendment.

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

Carried.

SECTION 5.

Mr. Bensley.—I have only one more amendment to move, viz.,—Omit the words "wearing the prescribed dress or badge of his department"—lines 1 and 2.

By prescribing a distinctive dress or badge, certain classes of servants who should I think have the power conferred by the section are excluded. The amendment enables such servants to exercise these powers subject to the necessary restrictions.

Seconded by Mr. Prince.

Carried.

Mr Bensley then moved that the Bill be read finally on a future day of which notice shall be given.

The motion was put and agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.—I beg to move that the principles of the Council Bill be affirmed. These principles are (1) that legislation on matters political or coming within the sphere of imperial policy be excluded from the jurisdiction of the Council, (2) that in the nomination of non-official members, some system of election suitable to our conditions be followed under such rules as the Government may be pleased to prescribe from time to time. I have stated my reasons for the adoption of these principles in the statement of Objects and Reasons and also in the speech introducing the Bill.

Mr. Rama Varma Rajah.—I hope I will be allowed to say a few words regarding the principle of the "Legislative Council Regulation Amendment Bill."

To the best of my knowledge Regulation II of 1063 has been working most satisfactorily. Nobody has, as far as I am aware, ever complained of its working defectively. The reason given in the statement of Objects and Reasons for amending the Travancore Legislative Council Regulation is that it is framed on the lines of the Indian Councils Act as it stood in 1888. The Indian Councils Act has since been amended. Hence Regulation II of 1063 should also be amended. I dare say I doubt if there is much strength in this reasoning. I am myself a great admirer of British models. If we want now to reconstitute our Legislative Council on the lines of the Indian Councils Act let us do so by all means. In remodelling the Indian Councils a step decidedly in the right direction has been made by introducing "a system of debating, permission being given to discuss the annual Budget" and also "under strict rules to use the right of interpellation as it is called or of asking questions about things in general." If we are not yet prepared to introduce these novelties which are the chief distinguishing

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characteristics of the Indian Councils Act now in force, why should we think of modifying our Council Regulation on British model devoid of its chief characteristics. The present attempt is simply to expand the Council in size, not in function. I for one find it very difficult to approve this attempt. The Travancore Legislative Council is now a mere deliberative assembly, a sort of senate to advise the Government in framing laws; not a reprsentative body. The Council as now constituted answers this purpose admirably well. The present endeavour is to give it a representative character. True; all classes and interests are not represented in the Council now. It is an evil indeed in a representative assembly but our Council is anything but that. If the present attempt is to make it a representative assembly, I am quite at a loss to know how far our efforts are likely to be successful. Enlarge our Council to any extent. I for one doubt if any Council you can devise would be able to shape the laws wanted by such dissimilar classes and interests. To make any distinction is enviable and undesirable. The Bill I believe purposes only to create our Council a representative body not responsible to those whom they represent. I cannot understand the wisdom of doing so. A sort of election is contemplated in the Bill. I ask where are elective bodies in Travancore as they exist in British India. Have we here Municipal corporations like those in the cities and towns in British India? Have we District Boards here? Have we a Chamber of Commerce here? Have we a University? Have we a landed aristocracy here like that in British India? The mover of the Bill, my esteemed friend the Chief Justice, says that "six non-official members will be sufficient for a long time to come to secure representative members of the important communities residing in Travancore." Perhaps he does not want interests to be represented in the Council. For these and many other reasons I do not find much wisdom in the attempt to remodel our Council on the lines suggested in the Bill. Let us not do a thing in a half-hearted manner. Let us always have the *substance*—not the *shadow* of a thing.

Mr. Ramanatha Rao.—I for one am inclined to agree with the Rajah that in amending the Bill occasion should be taken to shape it more fully on the lines of the British Indian Enactment including election, interpellation &c. But we should take it as it comes and be thankful for whatever additional advantages are given, though not to the full extent one could wish. So far as the Bill goes, then, it has my hearty approval as containing a welcome instalment of a needed reform.

Mr. Prince.—I fully support the motion for affirming the principle of the Bill. It appears to me that considering the constitution of this Government and the working of the administrative machinery, the right of interpellation will be entirely out of place and prove more an impediment than a help to them.

Mr. Thanu Pillai.—The principle of the Bill seems to me unobjectionable. As regards the important privileges alluded to by my friends the Rajah and Mr. Ramanatha Rao, they are, of course, good in themselves. But the question in such cases should be not so much whether a thing is good in itself, as whether it is adapted to or is necessary under existing conditions.

The motion was put and agreed to.

[Mr. Rama Vurma Rajah agreed to the portion of the Bill defining the functions of the Legislative Council but opposed the part connected with the elective element and the enlargement of the number.]

Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao.—I am glad to find that all the members present have unanimously approved of the principle of excluding certain matters from the deliberations of the Council and that the other principle has met with the approval of my colleagues with the exception of the Rajah of Perapanad. The Rajah seems to labour under the misapprehension that if the 2nd principle of the Bill be affirmed, this Council will become a House of Commons. The Bill before you does not materially alter the *constitution* of the Council. The official members will continue to *form the majority* in the Council. Even as regards non-official members, all that the Bill says is that it is *optional* with the Government to call upon qualified persons to assist them in the selection of non-official members. This option can be exercised only after the rules prescribing the necessary qualifications are framed and promulgated by the Executive. If the Government think that the country is not ripe for such a moderate step they need not pass the rules and the present practice of appointing non-official members will continue. Moreover the royal prerogative of

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